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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Lynch, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/408,383  
Filed : September 29, 1999  
For : GUIDEWIRE ADVANCEMENT SYSTEM  
Examiner : Dinh X. Nguyen  
Group Art Unit : 3738

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date which appears below:

Name: Neal L. Rosenberg

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Date: March 22, 2002

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AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 18, 2001, please amend the claims of the above-identified application as follows:

Rewrite Claims 1, 16 and 25 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A guidewire advancement device comprising:
- a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end;
  - a casing for holding the guidewire, the casing being formed in a loop and having an outlet;
  - a straightening element having a guidewire exit point and a tube portion adjacent the guidewire exit point, the tube portion formed to straighten the curved distal end of